

Committee on the Budget

Jim Nussle, Chairman

United States House of Representatives

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Nussle: 'Power to the People'

Taxpayers Should Decide for Themselves How to Spend Their Own Hard-Earned Money

House Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle signaled his strong support for tax relief legislation being considered on the House floor today. The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001 cuts tax rates across the board for every taxpayer in America and condenses the current five tax brackets into four. The bill is also the first major piece of President Bush's plan for \$1.6 trillion in tax relief over the next decade.

"Look how much the debate in Washington has changed since 1995," Nussle noted. "Six years ago, in an era of deficits, Republicans vowed to keep the promises of the Contract with America. We kept our promises and in the process transformed the way the federal government works. And the record is crystal clear: a balanced budget, welfare reform, repayment of debt, and now, burgeoning tax surpluses."

Nussle added: "Today the House will build on another core Republican accomplishment: tax relief. Republican-sponsored tax relief measures have pumped \$316 billion back into the economy since 1997. Today's vote for tax relief is another step toward getting money and power away from Washington and back to hard-working Americans. Let them decide how to spend their own money."

Nussle also defended the tax bill on procedural grounds, as Democrats have charged the bill cannot be considered apart from a budget resolution.

"The supporters of Big Government cannot win an argument on the merits of tax relief, so they argue procedure," said Nussle. "There is already a budget resolution in place from last year that clearly accommodates this portion of President Bush's plan to return Washington's enormous tax overcharge."

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